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THE

PITTSBURGH GAZETTE.

[NOVEMBER 4, 1786

Price SIX-PENCE.] SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1786. [VOL. I.

PROCEEDINGS of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY, convened at Philadelphia.

(*Continued from our laſt.*)

Saturday, September 2, *A. M.*

READ, and ordered to lie on the table, a petition preſented by Mr. Lilly, from ſundry inhabitants of York town, county of Cumberland, praying that the number of repreſentatives in the aſſembly of this ſtate, may be reduced.

On motion of Mr. Clymer, read a third time, the bill for relieving the owners of unimproved lands in this ſtate from the inconveniencies they labour under from the preſent mode of enforcing the payment of taxes aſſeſſed thereon.

The firſt clauſe, ordering "the aſſeſſors of the ſeveral townſhips in this ſtate, to make a return to the commiſſioners, of all the tracts of land in their townſhips, on which the owner, or a tenant under him, does not reſide, and alſo ordering the commiſſioners to ſend a fair tranſcript of thoſe returns to the ſtate treaſurer, within two months after they receive the ſame," was agreed to.

The ſecond clauſe was then read, as follows:

"And be it further enacted by the authority aforeſaid, That the treaſurer of this ſtate for the time being, ſhall cauſe to be publiſhed in one or more of the public newſpapers, in the city of Philadelphia, the ſaid copy or tranſcript, which he ſhall from time to time receive from the commiſſioners of the reſpective counties, within after he ſhall receive the ſame. And the owners of all ſuch lands as ſhall be contained in ſuch returns are hereby authoriſed to pay all ſuch taxes or aſſeſſments as ſhall be laid upon the ſame, to the treaſurer of the ſtate for the time being; who is hereby empowered to receive them. And if the owner or owners of ſuch lands, or ſome perſon for them, ſhall not pay the taxes or aſſeſſment which ſhall be laid upon the ſame, to the ſaid treaſurer, within months after the firſt publication to be made in any newſpaper or newſpapers as before directed, the treaſurer of the ſtate for the time being, ſhall then tranſmit to the commiſſioners of the reſpective counties in the ſtate, an account of all ſuch owners of land who ſhall not have paid to him the aſſeſſment on their lands, and the commiſſioners may thereupon proceed to enforce the payment of taxes, in ſuch manner as they are now authoriſed by law to do."

Mr. Clymer moved that the firſt blank ſhould be filled up with ten days.

Agreed to.

He then moved that the ſecond blank be filled up with three.

Mr. Whitehill objected to allowing ſo long a time. It would be a means of protracting the collection of the revenues of the ſtate. It was only calculated to anſwer the convenience of a few gentlemen in the city. There were two months allowed for making the returns, ſometime more for tranſmitting them to the treaſurer, and then three months after his advertiſing, to be allowed for the payment of the taxes; ſo that with other delays, which might be expected, little ſhort of a year would elapſe before the amount of the tax would come into the treaſury.

Mr. Clymer admitted there was great juſtice in what the gentleman had advanced. And the firſt clauſe might be reconſidered, in order to ſhorten the time mentioned therein, but, as to the time moved for, in the preſent caſe, it was not too much, for the bill concerned numbers of people not reſiding in Philadelphia, who had few opportunities of conſulting the public papers.

Mr. Morris ſaid if the citizens of Philadelphia only were concerned, he ſhould have had no objection to limit the time even to one month. They were at leaſt as punctual in the payment of their taxes as any other part of the ſtate. But inhabitants of the neighbouring counties were intereſted; and would from their ſituation require ſome time to make their arrangements, to diſcharge the taxes. He, however, ſhould not object to filling the blank with two months.

The motion for three being rejected, two months were agreed to.

The bill being gone through, was ordered to be engroſſed.

Mr. Hubly moved to reſume the conſideration of the bill for confirming and amending the charter of the German reformed congregation in Lancaſter.

Mr. Clymer objected to the preamble of the bill as he had done at a former day. The reaſon aſſigned therein, viz. that doubts had ariſen whether the charter was not vacated by non-uſer, were grounded upon the charter's having been granted by the late proprietaries----This was an aſſumption contrary to juſtice and to practice. There was, indeed, an inſtance of one charter having been ſuffered to be vacated ſilently at the revolution, not becauſe granted under the old form of government, but becauſe inconſiſtent with the new one. But could it be aſſerted that charters for incorporating churches and meeting houſes came under that deſcription? When people were ſubdued by a foreign power, there was a complete revolution of every thing, but when they altered the frame of their own government, they only rejected what was bad, retaining the good. Otherwiſe, by introducing anarchy and confuſion, they would be in a worſe ſituation than under their old ſyſtem. This was the reaſon for his oppoſition to the bill, and he thought it a juſt and ſufficient one.

This bill was, however, agreed to, and ordered to be engroſſed.

Mr. Whitehill read in his place ſeveral clauſes, which he propoſed to move to be added to the bill for amending the penal laws. As the members were not prepared to go into the diſcuſſion of them, and as he was not deſirous of hurrying them through the houſe, he moved they might lie on the table for the peruſal of the members.

Motion agreed to. Adjourned.

Monday, September 4, *P. M.*

General Irwin reported a bill to exonerate the owners of lands, the ſettlement whereof has been impeded and the value greatly leſſened by the influence of the diſturbances at Wyoming, from the payment of taxes aſſeſſed thereon ſince the year 1780. Read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Read, and ordered to lie on the table, the report of the committee, to whom had been referred the petitions for and againſt a removal of the ſeat of juſtice in Weſtmoreland, viz. "That it ought to remain at the place where it now is."

Agreeably to the order of the day, proceeded to the conſideration of the bill entitled, "an act for altering and amending an act to regulate the general elections of this commonwealth, and to prevent frauds therein."

The firſt enacting clauſe was read, and agreed to unanimouſly, as follows:

"Be it therefore enacted, &c. That from and after the publication of this act, at every of the general elections aforeſaid, or at any ſpecial election, to be holden for electing a repreſentative or repreſentatives, to ſit in the general aſſembly, or of a counſellor, the ſame election ſhall be holden and continue without interruption or adjournment, until the qualified electors, who ſhall come to the ſame election, ſhall have full opportunity to give in their reſpective votes."

The next clauſe was read, viz.

"And be it further enacted, &c. That the election of inſpectors, which by the ſaid recited act is limited to be cloſed, at the hour of ſix in the evening, appointed for holding the ſame, ſhall be kept open and continued until all the qualified electors, who ſhall come to the ſame election, ſhall have given in their ſeveral votes."

Mr. Whitehill thought the clauſe too vaguely worded. Electors might come to the place appointed, and not give in their votes for a long time, if at all. He therefore moved to inſert before the words "have given in their ſeveral votes," the words "have had ſufficient time to."

Mr. Gray was of opinion, if the amendment was adopted, diſputes would ariſe what ſhould be "a ſufficient time." That ought to be defined.

Mr. Lollar thought that it was neceſſary to fix two certain hours, between which the election ſhould be begun and ended.

The queſtion being put on Mr. Whitehill's motion, it was rejected.

Mr. Gray moved, that the election ſhould be kept open until ten o'clock.

Mr. Lollar hoped that motion would not be agreed to. The election of inſpectors had never been kept open ſo long.

Mr. Fitzſimons ſaid that there were numbers of perſons, particularly in the city, that were obliged to attend their daily labour, who would find it a hardſhip to be obliged to quit their buſineſs, for the purpoſe of voting, or elſe be debarred of a valuable privilege.---- Complaints on that head were made at the laſt general election.

Mr. Rittenhouſe was of opinion the clauſe might be ſo modified as to anſwer the views of all the gentlemen who had ſpoken, by allowing a longer time in the city than in the country.

The amendment was rejected, and the clauſe poſtponed.

The next ſection was then read as follows:

"And whereas it was alſo enacted and provided by the ſaid recited act, that the juſtices of the peace, of the city of Philadelphia, and the ſeveral counties, at their general quarter ſeſſions, ſhall nominate three able and intelligent freeholders, (reſiding within the diſtrict of any county, which is divided into diſtricts, for the purpoſe of holding elections, or otherwiſe reſiding within the county) as judges of election, to be holden in each diſtrict, or place, as aforeſaid.

"And whereas the ſaid mode of nominating, has been conſidered as a dangerous innovation in the former laws, which gave the appointment of the judges of election to inſpectors choſen by the freeholders.

"Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforeſaid, That the inſpectors of the reſpective wards and diſtricts, who ſhall be choſen in purſuance of the ſaid act, or a majority of them, ſhall, on the morning of the day of any election, at their meeting in the place appointed for the diſtricts to which they belong, chuſe and take to their aſſiſtance three reputable and diſcreet perſons, who, with the ſheriff or coroner (if he be preſent) ſhall be judges of the election.

Mr. Smilie ſaid the aſſertion in the introduction to this clauſe, that the newly adopted mode of nominating had been conſidered as a dangerous innovation, was not in proof before the houſe. It was not fact. On the contrary, he thought it a very great improvement. That part of the clauſe was totally unneceſſary; and he could not divine for what it had been introduced, unleſs it was meant to paſs a cenſure upon the late houſe. He therefore moved that thoſe words ſhould be eraſed.

Mr. Fitzſimons, ſaid he had no objection to the eraſure of the words; they certainly conveyed a reflection on the late houſe, which he regarded as improper for one houſe to do to another. But he hoped the gentleman meant to ſubſtitute ſomething elſe in their ſtead, as a reaſon for the ſubſequent clauſe: otherwiſe it was evident it would be imperfect.

Two amendments were propoſed, one by Mr. Whitehill, to aſſign as a reaſon that the late mode had not been found "ſatisfactory," the other by Mr. Smilie, that it had not been found "convenient."

Mr. Clymer could not agree in the adoption of the latter expreſſion. For it would certainly be the moſt convenient mode to let the juſtices appoint the inſpectors and even the members of aſſembly. But it could not be ſaid to be either proper or conſtitutional. The houſe appeared diſpoſed to adopt the word ſatisfactory; and the gentlemen on the other ſide ſhould reſt ſatisfied with their acquieſcence therein, as it removed the cenſure levelled at the late houſe, by the clauſe as it ſtood originally.

Some further debate enſued, and at length the word "inexpedient" was agreed on.

Mr. Smilie moved to eraſe the words "with the ſheriff or coroner, if he be preſent." It was manifeſtly improper that perſons intereſted in a cauſe ſhould preſide as judges in the deciſion of it. Thoſe perſons were materially concerned in the event of the election, and might exert their influence to ſerve particular purpoſes.

Mr. Fitzſimons ſaid the ſheriff and coroner were the conſtitutional judges of election. He had never heard any complaints againſt them for abuſe of the truſt.---- They were, it was true, intereſted in their own election, but not in the election of members of aſſembly more than any other freeholders. He did not think the houſe authoriſed to take away a privilege they had ſo long enjoyed by the conſtitution.

Mr. Smilie did not underſtand what the gentleman meant by conſtitutional judges. They were no more conſtitutional judges than any other perſons who might be appointed by that houſe. Beſides their being intereſted in the event of the election, there was another reaſon why they ſhould not be appointed judges. The counties were divided into diſtricts, and particular places appointed for the election to be held in each.---- Now as the ſheriff or coroner could attend but one diſtrict, and as the election in all the others muſt be carried on without them, he thought their attendance might very well be diſpenſed with altogether. The ſheriff, in order to carry his own election, might join a party, and make a compact, if they aſſiſted him, he would aſſiſt them; and thus undue ſteps be taken. It had been ſaid that no complaints had been made of the abuſes of ſheriffs or coroners; he knew the contrary to be the caſe: but did not chooſe to enter into particulars.

Mr. Finlay said that as the very words of the clause were conditional, appointing the sheriff or coroner judges of election, if present, and as they could not attend in all the districts, he thought the words should be erased.

Motion agreed to: postponed the further consideration of the bill.

Adjourned.

Tuesday, Sept. 5, A. M.

On motion of Mr. Whitehill, read a third time the bill relative to the Scots Presbyterian church in the city of Philadelphia.

Mr. Fitzsimons remarked that since the publication of the bill, numbers of petitions and memorials had been presented to the house for and against it. It would be a very proper mark of respect to their constituents, to pay attention to their representations. He was therefore of opinion they should be referred to a committee to report thereon, for which purpose he moved that the further consideration of the bill should be postponed. This would save time, as otherwise the petitions which were very long, must be read at the table.

Mr. Clymer was not against the appointment of a committee, provided they were confined in their report to the arguments adduced by the petitioners and memorialists for and against the bill, without giving any opinion of their own, so as to make a new impression on the house.

Mr. Whitehill differed very materially in opinion from the gentleman who made the motion, which he conceived was out of order. Could the committee place the matter in a different point of view from that in which the house already had considered it? It would not save time to refer the papers to a committee, for after the report was made, a member would still have a right to call them up, one after another, so that it would rather waste time. He had never known an instance of a committee being appointed, after a bill had been published, to consider the allegations for or against it.

Mr. Fitzsimons was surprized to hear a gentleman so well acquainted with the practice of the house, assert that his motion was out of order. It was not; nor could it be said to be improper. To what purpose were bills published for consideration, if not to collect the sentiments of the public, and by them to regulate the proceedings of the house? He had no more desire than the worthy gentleman unnecessarily to protract the business or waste the time of the house; he only wished to proceed with due circumspection. The bill was an object of no consequence to him or that gentleman; but it was of the utmost importance to the parties concerned. He wished the matter fully and fairly discussed.

Mr. Finlay coincided in opinion with the worthy member, that the motion was not out of order; but he thought it quite unnecessary. A committee had been already appointed on the business, and had reported. The bill had been a long time published, and the members had every opportunity to acquire a perfect information, having heard the several papers relative to it, read over. He was therefore against the motion.

Mr. Whitehill rose to explain, and Mr. Smilie to oppose the motion, which was negatived.

Some of the memorials and petitions on the subject being read,

Mr. Clymer said he did not mean to call up any papers relative to the business before the house. It would take up their time and attention to no purpose, without throwing any new light upon the subject, which was in the same situation as when before the assembly, at its last session, with this single difference, that it was now introduced into the courts of law. Hence an objection had been offered to proceeding with the bill. Had this application to a trial at law, been a voluntary appeal of both parties, the objection might have weight; but one of them, it was plain, was forced into law, contrary to inclination. Moreover the application to a court of law, and that to the house of assembly, stood upon very different ground. The former was, to decide the purport of the charter and deed of trust; the latter, to alter the deed of trust itself. Whether such an alteration was proper or reasonable, the house were to determine. Their interposition, it had been said, was improper, as the affair involved religious disputes and matters of conscience. But it had no more to do with religion, than whether the church should be built of brick or stone. The question had no relation to matters of faith; it was, simply, whether the congregation should hold their property at the pleasure of persons beyond sea? And this idea was confirmed by what the remonstrants themselves said; they asserted that the subordinating clause involved no temporal or civil concerns. If it were so innocent in its operation, could there be any harm in expunging it? Why, then, manifest such a degree of anxiety and solicitude? Was there not an evident consistency in such conduct? But the clause in question certainly affected the civil rights of the members of the church, and subjected them to a foreign jurisdiction. He hoped the house would proceed with the bill.

Mr. Fitzsimons said, whatever anxiety he had shewn on the business, arose from a wish to avoid injustice. But if the petitioners for the bill were really sincere in their professions that their only object was to free themselves from a civil or temporal jurisdiction, he hoped no objection would be made to an amendment which he had to propose, which was, that instead of the words "pretends to subordinate the said church to any foreign jurisdiction whatsoever, in temporal concerns." He hoped this would meet the ideas of the gentleman who had spoken last, as it would effectually guard against the ostensible grievance complained of, at the same time that it would avoid the dangerous attempt of interfering in matters of discipline.

Mr. Clymer said, he entertained doubts whether this amendment would operate as effectually as the gentleman said. He begged to trace it in its consequences. Members of that congregation might be cut off from it by the ecclesiastical censures of the Scotch synod. Would they not then be affected in their property? How was it possible to discriminate?

Mr. Finlay. So far as the amendment differs from the original clause, it is neither safe nor necessary. The alteration proposed to be made in the charter, is not of a spiritual nature, and cannot affect men's consciences.

Mr. Fitzsimons declared his concern that he was single in his opposition to the bill; he wished the parties who had petitioned against it, had had a better advocate. He submitted to the consideration of the impartial part of the house, how far the declarations of the petitioners for the bill, correspond with this unwillingness to adopt the amendment he had proposed. They had repeatedly declared that their only wish was to secure their temporal concerns from the civil jurisdiction of foreigners. Now that this was proposed to be done effectually, it was objected to; it became evident that the object in view was to wrest the church from the persons whose religious principles were declared in the deed of trust, and to transfer it to those who held different principles. He did not pretend to controvert the right of any men to change their religious principles; but he never could agree, that, when a church was erected, and appropriated particularly for the professors of a certain form of religious worship, it should afterwards be converted to the use of those who differed in religious sentiments.

Mr. Finlay said it would not be necessary to enter into the state of the case largely, to prove the necessity of passing the bill. But as an idea had been held out that it was intended to convey the church property to persons of a different religious persuasion, it would be necessary to give a narrative of the origin of the contest. The church government and discipline of the congregation of Scots Presbyterians in Philadelphia, were exactly the same as those of all the other Presbyterians in the state. The deed of trust was no part of their creed. Presbyterian principles admitted a practical subordination only where there was a real representation; now as the associate presbytery had never had a seat in the synod of Edinburgh, there could not be a real subordination. In the deed of trust published by that body, there was, indeed, a clause, however introduced, which bound them to a subordination to the synod of Edinburgh. This, before the revolution, had not created any alarm, as Scotland was not then considered as a foreign nation, they regarding all the British dominions as one realm. But by the revolution she had become alien to this country; and had shewed herself particularly hostile towards America, during the war. It would therefore for these reasons, be improper to remain in a state of subordination to her synod: as the exercise of the privilege of excommunication would affect the temporalities of the members of the congregation. The suspicions which he had already mentioned, that had been artfully excited, as if the friends of the bill meant to convert the church to the use of the professors of another system of religion, were not warranted by the tenor of the bill, which did not dissolve their religious observances, nor liberate them from their profession of faith. After independence had been declared, the brethren of the seceding persuasion having formed a coalition with three ministers of the covenanters, met for the purpose of constituting their different presbyteries into a synod. After agreeing on every other question, it was put to the vote, if they should be subordinate to the synod of Edinburg, and decided in the negative by a great majority. It was at the same time agreed that a brotherly connection and correspondence might still subsist between them; but that a practical and real subordination was inadmissible. Two of the ministers protested and appealed to the synod of Edinburgh, who approved their appeal, and acted under it. it was, however, rejected by the majority of their own presbytery, upon which they withdrew, and constituted themselves into a separate presbytery, assuming the title of the associate presbytery of Pennsylvania, by which schismatic conduct they subjected themselves to the censures of the church, which, through moderation, were not exercised. He concluded with remarking, that if voting for and supporting a subordination to a foreign jurisdiction, on one side by the minority, and rejecting it on the other by the majority, designated two different religions, they were different: if not, they were still of the same faith.

Mr. Clymer said he rose to make some observations on what had fallen from the last speaker but one, that church property was to follow the original doctrines or principles in case of a change of religion of the members. This was, he said, a very extraordinary sentiment, particularly in a country so liable to change as this. Suppose, demanded he, the whole society of Quakers became Presbyterians, what should become of their meeting houses and various endowments? Must they all cheat to the state, because there was no person to represent their former doctrines? Suppose the door keeper was the only person adhering to their old tenets, was he alone to be entitled to their property? What in this case would become of the episcopalians, who had rejected many articles of the church of England, broke the chain which connected them with the hierarchy of that church; and set up a new establishment? Were those few who dissented from the alteration, to have the property of the episcopal churches? No such idea had ever been entertained. This was a case that applied to that before the house.

The amendment was rejected, yeas 21, nays 41.

Some uninteresting conversation took place on a motion made by Dr. Logan, that the petitioners against the bill, should be heard by council. This was opposed by messrs. Fitzsimons, Finlay, Smilie, and Whitehill, and was at length negatived.

The several parts of the bill were then gone thro', and agreed to, and it was ordered to be engrossed.

Adjourned.

(To be continued in our next.)

Foreign Intelligence.

LONDON. August 5.

IT is a fact that considerable remittances of money have been made from America within these few weeks; but the American trade is grievously distressed by the Algerine vessels. The day publicly declared to the envoy sent by the Americans to make peace, 'That he knew no such nation as the American independent states.'

Yesterday the Cæsar, captain Gibbs, from Philadelphia, arrived at her moorings off Iron Gate, in 23 days from land to land. By the accounts of the passengers, the reports of the affair of Detroit are confirmed; where it seems, out of three hundred Americans that had possessed themselves by surprise of that post, only three escaped the fury of the Indians and the British troops. When the ship left Philadelphia early in July, trade was very dead and money very scarce, notwithstanding which, the Cæsar has brought a considerable quantity of dollars.

By the Deptford we have received the following intelligence: That in February last a most dreadful storm of thunder and lightning happened in the neighbourhood of Seringapatam, the capital of the late Tippo Saib's dominions: during the storm a very large magazine was struck by lightning, which immediately took fire, and spread so rapidly that one third of the town was consumed before the alarm was given, and many of the people threw themselves in the flames through despair, rather choosing to end their existence than survive the loss of their relations and property

American Occurrences.

NEW-YORK, October 13.

The late outrageous proceedings of the mobs in the government of New-Hampshire and Massachusetts, are circumstances to be regretted, as severity is undoubtedly a disagreeable mode of obtaining obedience to government.

It is said the Honorable the Congress, upon a consideration that major general John Sullivan was exposed to great and extraordidary expences in the service during the late war, resolved, that the state of New-Hampshire be recommended to pay him 4300 dollars, and charge the same to the United States.

PHILADELPHIA, October 19.

On Wednesday last a court of oyer and terminer, and a court of nisi prius were held at Norris-town, for the new county of Montgomery, before the honorable William Augustus Atlee, and George Bryan, esqrs. judges of the supreme court of Pennsylvania.

Their honors were met at the line of Philadelphia county by the sheriff and coroner of Montgomery, and their officers, the lieutenant of the county, and a de-

tachment of the troop of horſe, under the command of the hon. James Morris, esq. captain of the troop, and president of the court of common pleas for the county, and by them escorted to the county town.--- Twenty-two of a most respectable grand jury answered at the first call, the only two absentees having sent reasonable excuse.

A bill was presented against Philip Hoofnagle, for burglary, who was convicted by the traverse jury, on the clearest testimony. He was, after a very pathetic and instructing admonition from the bench, sentenced to five years hard labour, under the new act of assembly. It was with some difficulty that this reprobate was prevailed upon to take the election of labour instead of the halter----a convincing proof that the punishments directed by the new law are more terrifying to these lewd vagabonds than all the horrors of an ignominious death. As soon as the criminal was removed to the gaol, his head was shaved, and he will, when cloathed in the criminal's dress, be put to work.

A bill was also sent against Catharine Mecklin, for the murder of her bastard child, and returned ignoramus.

The judges dismissed the grand jury with their warmest approbation and thanks for the faithful discharge of the important duties they were summoned to perform; and with a well deserved encomium upon the order, and regularity with which every spectator and attendant on the court behaved.

Their honors were conducted by the sheriff and a party of the troop of horse as far as the county line of Berks, on their way to Northumberland.

Pittsburgh, November 4.

Friday evening the 27th ult. arrived in this town, the hon. Thomas M'Kean and Jacob Rush, esquires, judges of the supreme court, and on Sunday proceeded to Hannastown, there to hold a court of oyer and terminer, &c. for Westmoreland county.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman residing in Ohio County to his friend in this town.

"I happened the other day to be at friend's house, and seeing the Pittsburgh Gazette of October 14, I had a curiosity to peruse it, after reading it sometime I came to an extract of a letter, under the head of Pittsburgh, from a gentleman in the county to his friend in that place, giving him an account of an excursion he had with John Montour a trapping for beavers and recommending the necessity of calling a treaty with them, in order to consult on the most eligible way to procure their fur; I must acknowledge myself to be of the same opinion, and am fully convinced, that the expence would not amount to one-fourth as much as treating with the Indians, and the result could not be worse, but might be much more to the interest of the United States; for we have had experience enough to know that the Indians pay respect to treaties no longer than they answer their interest or convenience

"Since the ordinance for regulating the trade with the Indians has been published, it has been the general talk through this neighbourhood, and it has almost put poor Jemmy Racoon (an old Indian trader) out of his head, as trading with the savages is the only way he has to support a wife and six children. He says he will now have to pay fifty dollars for permission to go and trade, and he never can raise articles more than the value of double that sum to trade upon, and then has to run every risk of part of them being stolen. I think if the ordinance had a clause inserted in it promising to make up every loss of that kind, it would be much better received by the people in general, and to those whose only support is in trading with the savages in particular."

From the INDEPENDENT CHRONICLE.

NEW-HAMPSHIRE INSURRECTION!

An Account of the Insurrection in the State of New-Hampshire, which took place last week. Written by a gentleman who was present.

IN the beginning of the year 1785, the complaints of the unhappy people, who had contracted debts during the time of the too great plenty of money, induced the legislature to pass an act, making every species of property a tender, at an apprized value. It was soon, however, found from experience that this answered no other purpose, but to prevent demand on the part of the creditors, and a neglect on the part of the debtors, to discharge their just debts. The scarcity of money still remained a complaint; or as far as goods and real property were substituted a medium in commerce, so far specie, of course, eased to circulate; and credit being thus injured, the money-holders turned their keys on that cash, which might otherwise have been loaned to the needy.

In August a convention of committees from about thirty towns assembled and agreed upon, and preferred to the general court a long petition, setting forth their grievances on account of the scarcity of money, and praying for an emission of paper bills of credit, in which there is no single trace of an idea of redemption, or any one attempt to give the currency a foundation; but the whole seems predicated on a supposition that the general court by a mere act of legislation, by *words* and *signs*, *could impress an intrinsic value upon paper*; which is as fully absurd as it would be to suppose, that the legislature had the power of Midas, and could from a single touch, turn stones and sticks into gold: their great object was, however, to have this paper a tender for all debts and taxes, and no plan is hinted by which the people are to get this money out of the treasury; but it rather seems that they expected the general court to apportion it among the people at large.

The legislature formed a plan for the emission of twenty thousand pounds, to be let out at 4 per cent. and land security redeemable at a future period, carrying an interest at 6 per cent. and to be a tender in taxes for the internal support of the state, and for fees and salaries of the officers of government. This plan was sent as early as the fourteenth of September, to the several towns, to collect their minds upon the subject.

On 20th instant, at four o'clock in the afternoon, about 400 men on horse back and on foot, entered the town of Exeter, where the general court were sitting; about 50 of them, or perhaps more, were armed with muskets, and the others with bludgeons; their principal leader appeared to be one Moses French, a farmer of Hampstead, aided by one Coffin, a major in the militia, and two or three others: they affected military parade, and had a drum: after they had halted a while, they sent a paper into the house of representatives, who were convened in the meeting house, demanding an answer to their former petition without delay; it was dated on Exeter Plain, and signed Moses French, moderator.

The house appointed a committee of three, to be joined by a committee from the senate to take the matter into consideration. This vote the senate unanimously non-concurred. Whereupon a conference took place in the meeting house, between the two branches of the legislature. The president, (general Sullivan) being ex officio, a senator, opened the matter, by giving publicly, in the hearing of the people, and as many of the mob as chose to attend, the reasons on which the senate non-concurred the vote of the house. He first considered the petition, and shewed with great strength of reasoning, and very cooly, the extreme folly, as well as the very great injustice of the prayer of their former petition. And also observed, that even if the measure was just and reasonable, the general court ought not to pay attention to it, merely from having the voice of thirty towns only, out of two hundred, in favor of it. He concluded by saying, that if the voice of the whole state was for the measure yet the legislature ought not to comply with it while they were surrounded by an armed force. To do it, would be to betray the rights of the people, which they had all solemnly engaged to support, and that no consideration of personal danger should ever compel him to so flagrant a violation of the constitutional rights of the people, who had placed him in the chair of government.

As soon as this speech was made, the mob beat to arms, and surrounded the meeting house, where the president, the senate and the house remained: those of the mob who had muskets, were ordered to charge with balls, which command they instantly obeyed.--- The house proceeded to business as usual, without taking any manner of notice of the management at the doors. Centinels were placed at each door, with fixed bayonets, and the whole legislature were prisoners. After sun set the president attempted to come out but was prevented by a firm column. He reasoned very cooly with them on the impropriety and fatal tendency of their conduct, and assured them that the force of the state would support the government: which they took leave to deny with as much confidence as he asserted it. Thus all remained till the evening was quite dark; the minds of the sober part of the people began to raise at the indignity! while the mob clamoured, some paper money, some an equal distribution of property, some the annihilation of debts, some release of all taxes, and all clamoured against law and government. A drum was now heard at a distance, and a number of men huzzaing for government. The mob appeared frighted, and some of them began to run; the president told them he would prevent bloodshed, and walked through them, and the general court followed.

On this the insurgents returned to another part of the town, and the legislature, who had throughout the whole, acted with the most inimitable firmness and magnanimity, reassumed their business, and requested the president to call forth the power of the state to quell the rebellion. At eleven in the evening he issued his orders, and by sun rise the next morning the militia were marching in, well armed, with military music, and other incidents to military movements. The major and brigadier generals of all the state, excepting one, whose great remoteness from the scene of action prevented him, assembled early in the morning; the gentlemen of the first rank and education, emulous to save a government for which they had done, and suffered so much, appeared either on foot or horse in order, and enthusiasm, quite inexpressible by words, appeared through the whole. About ten o'clock the president, attended by the general officers, followed by several companies, advanced towards the insurgents who were drawn up at a tavern, in the outer part of the town: there was no conflict, the mob fled, and nothing was to be done but to pick up the prisoners. A number fled and made a stand at a bridge. General Cilly soon came up with them, rushed in and seized their leaders. One of whom ordered them to fire, but government appeared with such force that they dared not to obey. About forty of them were made prisoners and are now in gaol to be tried for high treason---- the rest are fled to their lurking places, from whence they must be dragged to an ignominious death, unless the clemency of government shall pity and save them. By this time there were more than 2000 men in arms, about 300 of them were horse; all ready to make any rescue to preserve legal government, and the due execution of the laws. The sentiment was constantly re-echoed, "How can we live without government, and shall we give ourselves up to a mob?" If the legislature appeared magnanimous the day before, *A free Government, the people's Government*, shone with a splendor and glory, that never was before equalled.

September 28, 1786.

Messrs. SCULL & HALL,

FOR the satisfaction of persons who have entrusted me with business in the way of law, I take the liberty to mention in your paper, that I shall return from Philadelphia before the next sitting of the county courts, and attend them.

H. H. BRACKENRIDGE.

Pittsburgh, October 30, 1786.

To be sold at public vendue, by Wilson and Wallace, on Saturday the 2d of December, at the House of William Wilson, in Pittsburgh, the following Goods, the property of Mr. Valck. There will be six months credit given for all sums exceeding twenty shillings, by giving bond with sufficient security.

ELEVEN yards calico, 29 and a quarter ditto blue cloath, 15 do. red, 41 and an half do. swanskin, 4 and a quarter do. superfine scarlet, 605 flints, 56 white ruffled shirts, 64 do. 18 calico do. 153 calico do. 78 doz. silver broaches, 21 5-12 doz ear-rings, 8 silver lockets, 5 doz. looking glasses, No. 5. 1 and three quarter doz. do. No. 4. 3 and a half doz. do. No. 3. 2 and a quarter doz. do. No. 2. 800 needles, 3 plated spurs, 2 gross womens thimbles, 1 do. do. 11 and two-thirds doz. mens do. 4 and two-fifths bundles brass wire, 9 and three-quarters do. 56 oval gilt looking glasses, 2 gross metal bells, half a pound knitting needles, 2 hair trunks, 11 saddles, 7 and a quarter pieces garters, 3 gross herring bone lace, one tent 5 and an half ounces brown thread, 1 and three quarters pound coloured do. 1 and one sixth of a doz. horn combs, 5 and 7-12 doz. Indian awls, 5 steel beaver traps, 3 do. with chains, 9 powder horns, 3 dozen butcher knives, 1 and two-thirds of a doz. scalping knives, 75 fish hooks, 65 do. 50 do. 200 do. 375 do. 5lb. best vermillion, 648lb. lead, 19 brass kettles, 51lb. gun powder, 7 kegs do. 11lb. 9 ounces barley corn, 4 and a half ounces seeds, 3 do. agath. 7 blankets, 1 pair of scales. Nov. 3.

FOUR DOLLARS REWARD.

STRAYED from the lands of Brush Creek on the 14th of September last, a dark bay Gelding, 3 years old, about 14 and a half hands high, a natural trotter, has a snip and star, scarcely perceivable, carries well, his hind feet white, a long bushy tail.--- Whoever takes up said gelding, and delivers him to Mr. John Irwin, at Brush Creek, or the subscriber in Pittsburgh, shall receive the above reward and reasonable charges, paid by

GEORGE COCHRAN.

October 26, 1786.

N. B. Said Gelding is branded with W.

To the County Commissioners in Westmoreland.

THE subscriber is apprehensive of a mistake of the name of Samuel instead of Matthew, in your list of arrearages for tax in Fairfield Township. As I have a place in that township, and the tax for 1785, the same sum as in your list, I have paid, though in public it stands against me, and there is only five shillings and nine pence due, which you shall have the first opportunity I have of conveyance; but if you cannot wait, please to call on captain Morton or major Wilson, and they will pay this for once rather than a plantation should be sold for five shillings and nine pence. This gentlemen is only on the supposition of a mistake of the name, from your's,

MATTHEW HENDERSON.

Chartiers, Washington County, October 23, 1786.

An ENQUIRY into the EFFECTS of SPIRITUOUS LIQUORS upon the HUMAN BODY, and their INFLUENCE upon the HAPPINESS of SOCIETY. By BENJAMIN RUSH, M. D. Profeſſor of Chemiſtry in the Univerſity of Philadelphia.

BY ſpirits I mean all thoſe liquors which are obtained by diſtillation from fermented juices or ſubſtances of any kind. Theſe liquors were formerly uſed only in medicine. They now conſtitute a principal part of the drinks of many countries.

Since the introduction of ſpirituous liquors into ſuch general uſe, phyſicians have remarked that a number of new diſeaſes have appeared among us, and have deſcribed many new ſymptoms as common to old diſeaſes. Spirits in their firſt operation are ſtimulating upon the ſyſtem. They quicken the circulation of the blood, and produce ſome heat in the body. Soon afterwards, they become what is called ſedative; that is, they diminiſh the action of the vital powers, and thereby produce languor and weakneſs.

The effects of ſpirituous liquors upon the human body, in producing diſeaſes, are ſometimes gradual. A ſtrong conſtitution, eſpecially if it be aſſiſted with conſtant and hard labor, will counteract the deſtructive effects of ſpirits for many years, but in general they produce the following diſeaſes:

1. A ſickneſs at the ſtomach, and vomiting in the morning. This diſorder is generally accompanied with a want of appetite for breakfaſt. It is known by tremors in the hands, inſomuch that perſons who labour under it, are hardly able to lift a teacup to their heads, till they have taken a doſe of ſome cordial liquor. In this diſorder, a peculiar paleneſs, with ſmall red ſtreaks, appear in the cheeks. The fleſh of the face, at the ſame time, has a peculiar fulneſs and ſlabbineſs, which are very different from ſound and healthy fat.

2. An univerſal dropſy. This diſorder begins firſt in the lower limbs, and gradually extends itſelf thro'out the whole body. I have been told that the merchants in Charleſton, in South-Carolina, never truſt the planters when ſpirits have produced the firſt ſymptom of this ſecond diſorder upon them. It is very natural to ſuppoſe that induſtry and virtue have become extinct in that man, whoſe legs and feet are ſwelled, from the uſe of ſpirituous liquors.

3. Obſtruction of the liver. This diſorder produces other diſeaſes, ſuch as an inflammation, which ſometimes proves ſuddenly fatal; the jaundice, and a dropſy of the belly.

4. Madneſs. It is unneceſſary to deſcribe this diſeaſe with all its terrors and conſequences. It is well known in every township, where ſpirituous liquors are uſed.

5. The palſy. 6. the apoplexy, and 7. the epilepſy, complete the group of diſeaſes produced by ſpirituous liquors. I do not aſſert that theſe diſorders are never produced by any other cauſes, but I maintain that ſpirituous liquors are the moſt frequent cauſes of them, and that when a prediſpoſition to them is produced by other cauſes, they are rendered more certain and more dangerous by the intemperate uſe of ſpirits.

I have only named a few of the principal diſorders produced by ſpirituous liquors. It would take up a volume to deſcribe how much other diſorders natural to the human body, are encreaſed and complicated by them. Every ſpecies of inflammatory and putrid fever, is rendered more obſtinate by the uſe of ſpirituous liquors.

The danger to life from the diſeaſes which have been mentioned is well known. I do not think it extravagant therefore to repeat here, what has been often ſaid, that ſpirituous liquors deſtroy more lives than the ſword. War has its intervals of deſtruction; but ſpirits operate at all times, and ſeaſons upon human life. The ravages of war are confined but to one part of the human ſpecies, viz. to men, but ſpirits act too often upon perſons who are exempted from the dangers of war by age or ſex; and laſtly, war deſtroys only thoſe perſons who allow the uſe of arms to be lawful, whereas ſpirits inſinuate their fatal effects among people, whoſe principles are oppoſed to the effuſion of human blood.

Let us next turn our eyes from the effects of ſpirits upon health and life, to their effects upon property; and here freſh ſcenes of miſery open to our view. Among the inhabitants of cities, they produce debts, diſgrace and bankruptcy. Among farmers, they produce idleneſs with its uſual conſequences, ſuch as houſes without windows, barns without roofs, gardens without incloſures, fields without fences, hogs without yokes, ſheep without wool, meagre cattle, feeble horſes, and half clad dirty children without principles, morals or manners. This picture is not exaggerated. I appeal to the obſervations of every man in Pennſylvania, whether ſuch ſcenes of wretchedneſs do not follow the tracks of ſpirituous liquors, in every part of the ſtate.

If we advance one ſtep further and examine the effects of ſpirituous liquors upon the moral faculty, the proſpect will be ſtill more diſtreſſing and terrible. The firſt effects of ſpirits upon the mind ſhew themſelves in the temper. I have conſtantly obſerved men who are intoxicated in any degree with ſpirits to be peeviſh and quarrelſome; after a while they loſe by degrees the moral ſenſe. They violate promiſes and engagements without ſhame or remorſe. From theſe deficiencies in veracity and integrity, they paſs on to crimes of a more heinous nature. It would be to diſhonor human nature only to name them.

(To be continued in our next.)

TEN dollars reward. Stolen out of the paſture of the ſubſcriber living in Letterkenny township, Franklin county, about four miles from Chambersburgh, on the night of the 20th Auguſt laſt, a brigh bay mare, eleven years old, about 15 hands high, trots well, carries lofty, a ſtar in her forehead, black main and tail, her main hangs on both ſides of her neck one of her fore hoofs ſplit. She is marked on one ſide with the chains, and I think on both, left a young colt at home. Whoever takes up ſaid mare and ſecures the thief ſo that he may be brought to juſtice and the owner have his mare, ſhall have the above reward, for the mare only eight dollars and reaſonable charges, paid by ALBERT TORRENCE, or James Torrence in Waſhington county, three miles from Pittſburgh. Oct. 21.

TO be ſold by the ſubſcriber living in Waſhington county, on the waters of ten mile creek, two miles from Camp's mill, and ſix from Waſhington, a plantation containing four hundred acres, of which 80 is clear, and under good fence, ten acres made into meadow, a dwelling houſe, 30 by 20; with a double ſtone chimney, two rooms on a floor, a double barn, kitchen and a weaver's ſhop, with other out houſes. There is a patent for the ſame. TIMOTHY RYAN. Oct. 21.

Juſt opened and to be ſold by the ſubſcriber living on the bank of the river, between Mr. David Duncan's and Mr. John Ormſby's.

A LARGE *and general aſſortment of* DRY *and* WET GOODS, *which he will diſpoſe of on the moſt reaſonable terms for caſh, country produce, peltry or ginſeng.* JOHN GIBSON.

SECRETARY's OFFICE.
Philadelphia, Auguſt 31, 1786.

NOTICE is hereby given, That agreeably to the 16th ſection of an act of general aſſembly, entitled, "An act for directing the mode of diſtributing "the donation lands promiſed to the troops by the "commonwealth," return has been made to council of the draughts of lots laid down within the limits of the lands, and that it is now ordered, "That the drawing of the lottery for, and the patenting of the ſaid "lots, ſhall commence on the 1ſt day of October "next; to be continued for one year from the 29th "inſtant." JOHN ARMSTRONG, jun. ſecry.

CERTIFICATES for the LAND OFFICE MAY *be had of the ſubſcriber, at his office in Market-ſtreet, between Fourth and Fifth ſtreets, nearly oppoſite the ſign of the Black Bear, where every perſon applying may be furniſhed with the exact ſum they may have occaſion for in the land-office, and their warrants carried through without any other charge than the fees of the different offices, by*

THOMAS FORREST.

Who buys and ſells all kinds of CERTIFICATES of this ſtate, or any of the United States.

Philadelphia, Sept. 2, 1786.

Pittſburgh, July 10, 1786.

THE Partnerſhip of CRAIG, BAYARD, & Co. having diſſolved the 1ſt inſtant; all perſons indebted to them by Bond, Note, or Book Account, are hereby earneſtly requeſted to ſettle the ſame with DANIEL BRITT & Co. Contractors, at Pittſburgh; who are fully authoriſed and empowered to receive and diſcharge them; and all Perſons who have Claims againſt the ſaid CRAIG, BAYARD & Co. are deſired to apply for ſettlement as aforeſaid.

Their Country Cuſtomers are hereby informed, that PRODUCE will be taken in diſcharge of their Debts at the Caſh Price, if delivered on or before the 1ſt day of October next; and all Accounts that are not diſcharged on or before that Time, will be put into the hands of an Attorney, without reſpect of Perſons: they therefore hope, from the indulgence already given that ſuch diſagreeable meaſures will be avoided.

Philadelphia, September 2, 1786.

MATHEW M'CONNELL, *at his office on the eaſt ſide of Second-ſtreet, between Market and Cheſnut ſtreets, ſeven doors below Black-Horſe alley, buys and ſells the various kinds of Continental and State* CERTIFICATES, *different emiſſions of* OLD PAPER MONEY *and* FACILITIES: *alſo,* HOUSES, LOTS *and* LANDS: *receives applications for lending and borrowing* MONEY, *&c. And negociates every kind of buſineſs for the uſual and cuſtomary commiſſions.*

All applications and orders will be carefully executed whether to make purchaſes or ſales, payments in the land-office, or to receive intereſt at the continental loan-office or ſtate treaſury.

People reſiding in any part of this, or of the United States, may by ſending written orders, have their buſineſs tranſacted with fidelity and diſpatch.

The ſubſcriber having declined all other buſineſs, will devote his whole time and attention to the duties aforeſaid, and pledges himſelf to do every thing in his power to render his office and ſervices as uſeful as poſſible to all who may pleaſe to call upon him.

It is requeſted that all orders for diſpoſal of real eſtates, may be reduced to writing (accompanied with authentic draughts of ſurvey) ſetting forth the deſcription and terms, of which an entry will be made in regiſter books kept for this purpoſe.

DANIEL BRITT & Co.
Have for Sale, a General Aſſortment of
MERCHANDIZE,
WHICH will be Sold on reaſonable Terms for Cash, Four, Whiſky, Beef, Pork, Bacon, Wheat, Rye, Oats, Corn, Aſhes, Candlewick, Tallow, &c. &c. Pittſburgh, July 28.

GINGSENG.
A QUANTITY of good GINSENG wanted by the ſubſcribers, for which a generous Price will be allowed in Merchandize.

It muſt not be dried in an oven, or in any manner that will dry it too quickly: the roots muſt be kept as whole as poſſible.

DANIEL BRITT & Co. Contractors.

ALL perſons who have open accounts with the ſubſcribers are hereby requeſted to produce them for ſettlement; and ſuch as are indebted to them and do not make payment thereof before the 20th day of November next, will have their accounts immediately put in ſuit. As they wish to decline buſineſs here, the remaining part of their goods will be ſold cheap for money.

WM. & THOS. GRENOUGH.
Pittſburgh, Oct. 2d, 1786.

TWO beautiful, ſeveral valuable tracts of land, lying in the county of Weſtmoreland, viz. One tract ſituate on the Alleghany river, known by the name of Crozier's landing: two tracts near the confluence of the Kiſkeminetas and Alleghany rivers: two tracts on the waters of Crooked Creek: one tract on the waters of Beaver run, about eight miles from Hanna's-town, and one tract on Black-lick creek, oppoſite Mr Bracken's mill. Any perſon inclining to take a leaſe of any of the above tracts of land, may know the terms by applying to the ſubſcriber living in Pittſburgh, who is fully authoriſed to leaſe the ſame. JOHN FINLEY.

Pittſburgh, Oct. 11, 1786.

THE PITTSBURGH ALMANAC,
Now in the Preſs, and will be publiſhed in convenient time.

THE obſervations of Rittenhouſe, Ewing and Elliot at their Obſervatory at the end of Maſon and Dixon's line, have enabled us to give the places and appearances of the heavenly bodies in the meridian of this weſtern country with exactneſs. The weather it will not be in our power to determine with great certainty this year, as no account of the ſeaſons has been yet regularly taken to the weſt of the mountains by hydrometer, barometer, or thermometer: However, we ſhall ſtill be nearer the truth than the Almanacs publiſhed elſewhere.

THIRTY dollars reward. Deſerted, September 6, 1786, from Little Beaver, on the Ohio David Jones, ſergeant, 5 feet 8 inches high, twenty ſix years of age, light hair, grey eyes, well proportioned, ſays he was born in England, his place of reſidence Connecticut. He is a temperate, decent looking man: at the time he deſerted he ſtole a valuable mare, ſaddle and bridle. Whoever ſecures the above deſcribed perſon ſhall have the above reward.

JOHN MERCER, capt. 1ſt A. regt. in the ſervice of the United States.

Fort M'Intoſh, Oct. 6, 1786.

N.B. As there are ſome peculiar inſtances of raſcality in this man's conduct, the ſeveral printers are requeſted to inſert this advertiſement.

PITTSBURGH: *Printed and Sold by* JOHN SCULL *and* JOSEPH HALL, *at their Printing-Office in Water-ſtreet, near the Ferry, where* Subſcriptions (at 17/6 per ann.) Advertiſements, *&c. for this Paper, are thankfully received, and* PRINTING *in its different Branches is done with Care, Elegance, and Expedition.*——ADVERTISEMENTS not exceeding a Square are Inſerted Three Weeks for a Dollar, and very continuance after one month 2/6 Dollar; thoſe exceeding a ſquare are inſerted in proportion.